

International Application No.: PCT/JP03/12305
U.S. Patent Application No.: Unknown
March 25, 2005
Page 3 of 14

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure originally filed with the above-identified patent application with the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A binding device ~~capable of relatively easy opening/closing by manually handling the tops of~~includes binding rings of the binder is provided. A binding device (10) includes: binding rings (12, 14); a holding member (16) having such a length that ~~allows~~enables the binding rings (12, 14) to be provided arranged at a distance; from each other, and an operating member (18) movably fixed inside the holding member (16) ~~so such~~ that the respective bases of the binding rings (12, 14) are secured onto a surface of the operating member at a distance to secure the binding rings (12, 14) to the holding member (16). In this ~~bind~~binding device (10), the operating member (18) is ~~composed of~~includes a pair of operating pieces (30, 32) ~~moving~~which move within the holding member (16) in a longitudinal direction of the holding member (16); ~~the~~. The base of one of the binding rings (12, 14) is secured to one of the operating piece (30), ~~whereas, and~~ and the base of the other binding ring (12, 14) is secured to the other operating piece (32); ~~the~~. The operating pieces are fixed to the holding member (16) ~~so such~~ that abutting edges (30a, 32a) thereof are kept maintained in an abutting state at a ~~position separate~~location spaced from an inner surface of the holding member (16) when the binding rings (12, 14) are closed, ~~whereas and~~ and the abutting edges are kept in maintained at a ~~direction of approaching the~~location closer to the inner surface of the holding member (16) when the binding rings (12, 14) are opened; and an opening/closing member (40) is provided for shifting the binding rings (12, 14) in an opening direction such that the operating pieces (30, 32) are moved in the longitudinal direction of the holding member (16) within the holding member (16) and are kept ~~in a direction of approaching~~maintained at the location closer to the inner surface of the holding member (16) when the binding rings (12, 14) are opened.